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New record of *Mutinus caninus* (Huds.) Fr.(Phallaceae) from Bihar

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ABSTRACT

The *Mutinus caninus* (Huds.) Fr. commonly known as dog stinkhorn mushroom belongs to the family Phallaceae is recorded for the first time from Islamganj situated in Gaya district in Bihar in the month of June 2021.

Keywords: Dog stink horn, Mushroom, Bihar.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the kingdom fungi family Phallaceae is known as dog stinkhorns, consisting 77 confirmed species under 21 genera (Kirk et. al. 2008). In the family Phallaceae genus phallus is widely distributed in Asia, Europe and North America. Dog stinkhorn mushrooms having unpleasant odour and confuse people by projecting fruiting body (Stipe) out of puffball like structure (Egg) and thrusting slime covered tip.

During field survey for documentation of diversity of mushroom in Gaya district, while collecting sample of available mushrooms a pungent smell taken our attention. We collected the specimen and further Prof. Dr. Ramar Govindaraj (Mushroom taxonomist, Entomology Research Institute, Loyola College, Chennai) confirmed the specimen as *Mutinus caninus*. Literature study revealed that the distribution of *Mutinus caninus* is not known from Bihar. Authors are reporting *Mutinus caninus* for the first time from Bihar.

Synonyms

1. *Cynophallus caninus* (Huds.) Berk
2. *Phallus caninus* Huds.
3. *Phallus inodorus* Sowerby
4. *Ithyphallus inodorus* Gray

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Only one specimen collected by the hand-picking method and preserved in 70% ethyl alcohol according to the suggestion of Dr.R.Govindraj.

Distribution

West Bengal, Karnataka, Eastern Himalaya, Western Ghats of Maharashtra, Kerala.

Measurement of the fruiting body

Egg- 3.3cm

Stipe: 10.51 cm in length, 1.52 cm diameter at middle and 1.12 cm diameter at tip.

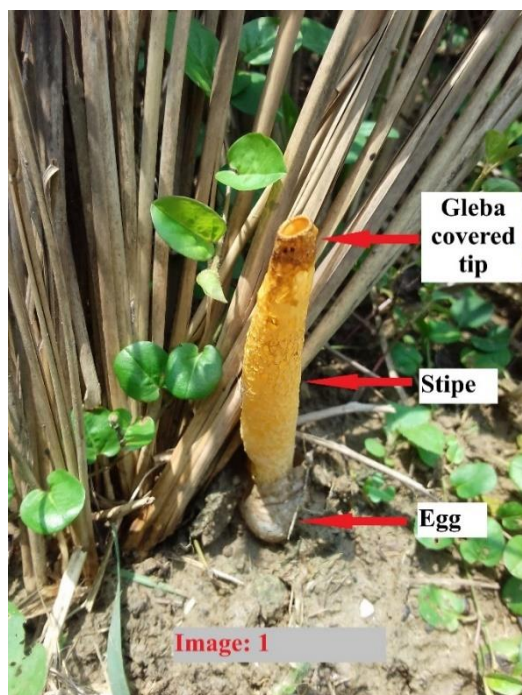


Image 1 Showing image of *Mutinus caninus* (Huds.) with egg, fruiting body and gleba covered tip.

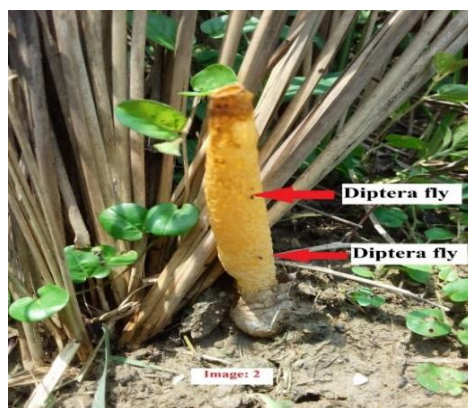


Image 2 Showing image of dipteran flies feeding on gleba.



Image 3 Showing image of the Egg.

3. DISCUSSION

White tiny root like structure were observed under the eggs. The egg was pale whitish and covered with skin like structure having transparent jelly like flesh inside. The stipe was yellowish orange and upper part having slimy substance. *Mutinus caninus* having unpleasant odour but the dipteran flies have observed to attract on gleba and slimy area.

4. CONCLUSION

In India tribal and other communities collect and consume wild mushrooms. In the context of *Mutinus caninus* (Huds.) Fr., we need more studies to understand the distribution patterns in Bihar along with its nutritional impact.

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We are highly grateful to Prof. Dr. Ramar Govindaraj (Mushroom taxonomist, Entomology Research Institute, Loyola College, Chennai) for confirming the taxonomic identification. We are similarly thankful to Dr. Kumari Aditi, Dr. Roshan Kumar, Dr. Nikki Kumari, Ms. Poonam Singh and Ms. Abha Kumari and other faculties for supporting and motivating us in our research work.

Authors Contribution

First and second author done the field observation, taken images and third author reviewed the literature. First author prepared the paper while senior author helped in literature review along with supervision during the research work.

Ethical issues

The materials and the mushroom species *Mutinus caninus* (Huds.) Fr. did not comes under any ethical consideration in India and not scheduled under Wildlife Protection Act.

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Conflicts of interests

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

Data and materials availability

All data associated with this study are present in the paper.

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